

Message Notes



Follow the sermon online at YouVersion.com by selecting **LIVE EVENT** and entering our zip code **92627** or scan the **QR code** to the left. Wifi is available in the sanctuary: **GuestNet** and the password is **John-316**. In order to ensure consistency in our use of the Biblical text we are now using only the English Standard Version (ESV) in worship

Ascension

Jesus led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven... "This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven..." And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy and were continually in the temple blessing God. (Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:11)

Ascension?

- It's Jesus' ascension into the presence of God that gets all that he accomplished "down here" to count for us "up there" with God. The Ascension is Jesus taking His (our) humanity back into the presence of God.
- The Ascension is the ultimate rags to riches story. A child born in a barn becomes the King of the universe. But it is not His story alone. It is the story of the restoration/reconciliation of all humanity with the God who made them. The story of Jesus is our story. All believers participate in this rags to riches story. We ascend to become who we were born to be.
- The Ascension brings **REST** from self-righteousness and **FREEDOM** to do life, reflecting the reign of our Savior and King!
- The Ascension checks our worldliness. Why would we lay up treasure on earth when we can lay up eternal treasure in heaven? The Ascension reminds us that our citizenship is in heaven, our inheritance is in heaven, our treasure is in heaven, and our Savior is in heaven. Everything we have of real and eternal value is in heaven. Samuel Rutherford, "My heart is not my own, Christ has run away with it to heaven."
- The Ascension will produce "great joy."

An Ascent of Joy

1. The ascended Jesus is my self-actualization!

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (Colossians 3:1-3)

2. The ascended Jesus is my enthroned King!

I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed. (Daniel 7:13-14)

3. The ascended Jesus is my heavenly sympathetic mediator and high priest!

He is able for all time to save those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. Hebrews 7:25

4. The ascended Jesus is my power to be His "glocal" witness!

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8

5. The ascended Jesus is His (our) return to the Father!

"You heard me say, 'I go away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I go to the Father." John 14:28 "I came from the Father and have come into the world; again I am leaving the world and going to the Father. . . . Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory which I had with you before the world was made"

John 16:28; 17:5

6. The ascended Jesus will return (bringing all heaven with Him!) as King and Judge!